TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

February 19, 2002 LB 909 LR 6

that I would like Senator Schimek to...to...I'll give her my time and she can tell us more about the Department of Interior, or the director of the Department of Interior. I've been told a couple different times over the weekend that if this bill...or this constitutional amendment does pass and the voters put it in that the director of the Department of Interior would then have the authority to put a casino anyplace they wanted to if they were so asked by the reservations or the tribes. Would you please respond to that? And I have no...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Schimek.

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: ...you can have the reminder of my time. Thank you.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Pedersen. I'd be happy to respond to that. I think it's an important question and that people need to...to know the facts here. It is true that a tribe can ask for additional trust lands. But the truth of the matter is, it is an almost impossible task to achieve that end and, to my knowledge, there have only been two states where the Secretary of Interior actually approved that kind of...of additional trust land. And usually they're contiguous to the existing trust lands. But the bottom line is only two states has that ever...have they ever considered that, and the Governor actually has a veto, a very definite definitive veto, over anything like that. So it is...it is almost an impossible task to happen. I don't consider it a real...a real serious concern, but I think that I...I went...I realize why people are asking it and talking about it. And it's important to clear the air on If I might go ahead then and use the rest of your time, Senator Brown, I guess you're not on the floor right now, under this scenario, under LR 6CA, and I...and I have to tell you, I'm open to other scenarios, as well, if it's of benefit to the four Indian tribes in Nebraska. But I've got...I've got...the devil is always in the details, and I've got to see that first. But under LR 6CA, the decision making is in the hands of the state and the tribes. And remember, I mentioned the trailer bill, LB 909, and that very clearly sets out a process by which things are negotiated. And they would be things like, what is the age at which people can participate in